

February 10, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Assistant Secretary Strickling:

We write today to urge the Commission to take steps to continue to unlock much-needed additional mobile broadband spectrum.

As members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, we have worked on a bicameral and bipartisan basis to identify opportunities to free up federal spectrum in a way that allows agencies to maintain or even enhance their critical missions. The Department of Commerce and the FCC have made progress in this regard, but due to the ongoing demand for additional spectrum to be made available, we strongly encourage you to continue the push toward reallocating even more government spectrum for commercial use.

In particular, we would like to call your attention to the 1675–1680 MHz band of spectrum, which after years of study has been identified for commercial reallocation and has both congressional and Administration support. Specifically, report language accompanying the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, urged the FCC to move forward with repurposing this 5 MHz band. Additionally, for four years in a row the President's budget has supported reallocating and auctioning the 1675–1680 MHz spectrum band.

This spectrum is currently used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for radiosonde operations, but we understand that studies conducted several years ago determined it was feasible to relocate those systems and enable repurposing of this spectrum band for wireless broadband. Funding for relocation of these systems is available thanks to the recent AWS-3 auction. A public proceeding on this matter and related matters would provide all stakeholders an opportunity to weigh in further and discuss solutions so that this spectrum can finally be commercialized consistent with our shared policy goals.

The success of the AWS-3 auction last year demonstrated the benefits that FCC spectrum auctions can generate for taxpayers and American wireless consumers. We understand there are

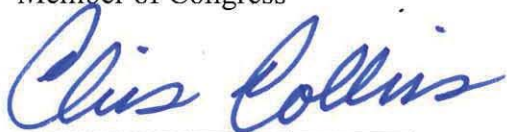
applications before the Commission requesting that the FCC move forward in reallocating and auctioning the 1675–1680 MHz band on a shared basis with NOAA while protecting NOAA operations. As we continue to promote policies designed to enhance technological innovation and maintain our global competitiveness, we strongly encourage the Commission and NTIA to move forward expeditiously to commercialize the 1675–1680 MHz band of spectrum.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to timely updates on your progress to commercialize this spectrum.

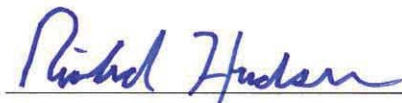
Sincerely,



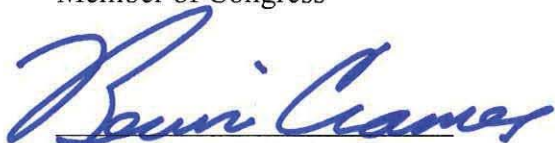
Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



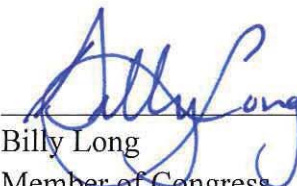
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



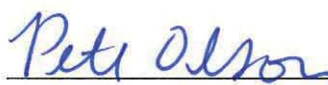
Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



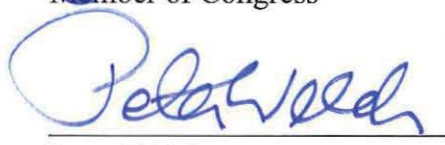
Bill Flores
Member of Congress



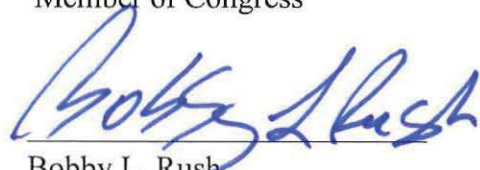
Pete Olson
Member of Congress




G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



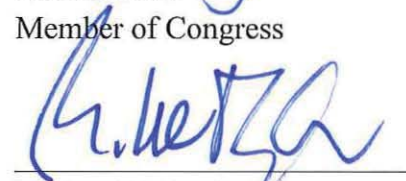
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blackburn:

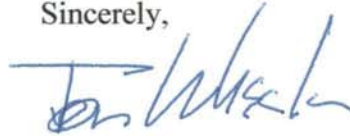
Thank you for your letter encouraging the Commission to expeditiously open a proceeding to reallocate the 1675-1680 MHz band for commercial use.

I am committed to making more spectrum available for new, flexible-use services. And I share your perspective that, through coordination and spectrum sharing, this particular spectrum has the potential to be of significant value for wireless broadband use. At the same time, I am aware of the importance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Meteorological Satellite and radiosonde operations in this band, and the interest in protecting these operations. As you note, however, some studies have indicated that it may be possible to move radiosondes to another band and the 1675-1680 MHz band could be reallocated on a shared basis while protecting NOAA operations. As a result, the Commission is exploring potential scenarios that could benefit interested stakeholders and discussing this matter with both NOAA and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

We also have a pending matter related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Ligado Networks LLC (formerly known as "Lightsquared LLC") has requested that the Commission initiate a proceeding to allocate this spectrum for commercial broadband use in conjunction with its proposed L-Band license modification plan. Accordingly, we are in the process of consulting with NTIA and our other federal partners prior to seeking comment on Ligado Networks LLC's request that a proceeding be initiated. The Commission will engage in a transparent process to collect data and consider Ligado's proposals, any competing proposals, and the needs of the government users prior to making any decisions related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Our analysis will be comprehensive and informed by an objective engineering review of the band, as well as appropriate policy considerations, in keeping with our mandate to act in the public interest. As we move ahead with that process, I will keep you apprised of our work related to this matter.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Commission can perform its mission in ensuring our telecommunications industry has access to essential spectrum resources. Please feel free to call me if you have any other concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield
U.S. House of Representatives
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

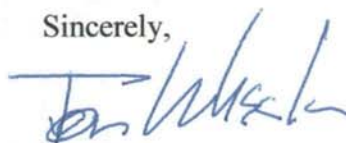
Thank you for your letter encouraging the Commission to expeditiously open a proceeding to reallocate the 1675-1680 MHz band for commercial use.

I am committed to making more spectrum available for new, flexible-use services. And I share your perspective that, through coordination and spectrum sharing, this particular spectrum has the potential to be of significant value for wireless broadband use. At the same time, I am aware of the importance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Meteorological Satellite and radiosonde operations in this band, and the interest in protecting these operations. As you note, however, some studies have indicated that it may be possible to move radiosondes to another band and the 1675-1680 MHz band could be reallocated on a shared basis while protecting NOAA operations. As a result, the Commission is exploring potential scenarios that could benefit interested stakeholders and discussing this matter with both NOAA and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

We also have a pending matter related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Ligado Networks LLC (formerly known as "Lightsquared LLC") has requested that the Commission initiate a proceeding to allocate this spectrum for commercial broadband use in conjunction with its proposed L-Band license modification plan. Accordingly, we are in the process of consulting with NTIA and our other federal partners prior to seeking comment on Ligado Networks LLC's request that a proceeding be initiated. The Commission will engage in a transparent process to collect data and consider Ligado's proposals, any competing proposals, and the needs of the government users prior to making any decisions related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Our analysis will be comprehensive and informed by an objective engineering review of the band, as well as appropriate policy considerations, in keeping with our mandate to act in the public interest. As we move ahead with that process, I will keep you apprised of our work related to this matter.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Commission can perform its mission in ensuring our telecommunications industry has access to essential spectrum resources. Please feel free to call me if you have any other concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Chris Collins
U.S. House of Representatives
1117 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Collins:

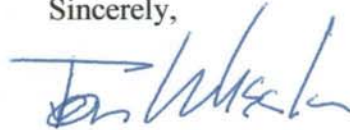
Thank you for your letter encouraging the Commission to expeditiously open a proceeding to reallocate the 1675-1680 MHz band for commercial use.

I am committed to making more spectrum available for new, flexible-use services. And I share your perspective that, through coordination and spectrum sharing, this particular spectrum has the potential to be of significant value for wireless broadband use. At the same time, I am aware of the importance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Meteorological Satellite and radiosonde operations in this band, and the interest in protecting these operations. As you note, however, some studies have indicated that it may be possible to move radiosondes to another band and the 1675-1680 MHz band could be reallocated on a shared basis while protecting NOAA operations. As a result, the Commission is exploring potential scenarios that could benefit interested stakeholders and discussing this matter with both NOAA and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

We also have a pending matter related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Ligado Networks LLC (formerly known as "Lightsquared LLC") has requested that the Commission initiate a proceeding to allocate this spectrum for commercial broadband use in conjunction with its proposed L-Band license modification plan. Accordingly, we are in the process of consulting with NTIA and our other federal partners prior to seeking comment on Ligado Networks LLC's request that a proceeding be initiated. The Commission will engage in a transparent process to collect data and consider Ligado's proposals, any competing proposals, and the needs of the government users prior to making any decisions related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Our analysis will be comprehensive and informed by an objective engineering review of the band, as well as appropriate policy considerations, in keeping with our mandate to act in the public interest. As we move ahead with that process, I will keep you apprised of our work related to this matter.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Commission can perform its mission in ensuring our telecommunications industry has access to essential spectrum resources. Please feel free to call me if you have any other concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
U.S. House of Representatives
1032 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cramer:

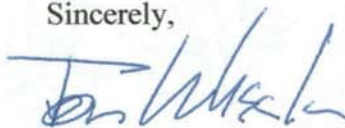
Thank you for your letter encouraging the Commission to expeditiously open a proceeding to reallocate the 1675-1680 MHz band for commercial use.

I am committed to making more spectrum available for new, flexible-use services. And I share your perspective that, through coordination and spectrum sharing, this particular spectrum has the potential to be of significant value for wireless broadband use. At the same time, I am aware of the importance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Meteorological Satellite and radiosonde operations in this band, and the interest in protecting these operations. As you note, however, some studies have indicated that it may be possible to move radiosondes to another band and the 1675-1680 MHz band could be reallocated on a shared basis while protecting NOAA operations. As a result, the Commission is exploring potential scenarios that could benefit interested stakeholders and discussing this matter with both NOAA and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

We also have a pending matter related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Ligado Networks LLC (formerly known as "Lightsquared LLC") has requested that the Commission initiate a proceeding to allocate this spectrum for commercial broadband use in conjunction with its proposed L-Band license modification plan. Accordingly, we are in the process of consulting with NTIA and our other federal partners prior to seeking comment on Ligado Networks LLC's request that a proceeding be initiated. The Commission will engage in a transparent process to collect data and consider Ligado's proposals, any competing proposals, and the needs of the government users prior to making any decisions related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Our analysis will be comprehensive and informed by an objective engineering review of the band, as well as appropriate policy considerations, in keeping with our mandate to act in the public interest. As we move ahead with that process, I will keep you apprised of our work related to this matter.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Commission can perform its mission in ensuring our telecommunications industry has access to essential spectrum resources. Please feel free to call me if you have any other concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

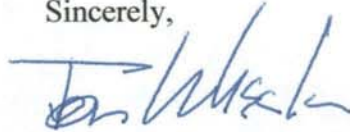
Thank you for your letter encouraging the Commission to expeditiously open a proceeding to reallocate the 1675-1680 MHz band for commercial use.

I am committed to making more spectrum available for new, flexible-use services. And I share your perspective that, through coordination and spectrum sharing, this particular spectrum has the potential to be of significant value for wireless broadband use. At the same time, I am aware of the importance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Meteorological Satellite and radiosonde operations in this band, and the interest in protecting these operations. As you note, however, some studies have indicated that it may be possible to move radiosondes to another band and the 1675-1680 MHz band could be reallocated on a shared basis while protecting NOAA operations. As a result, the Commission is exploring potential scenarios that could benefit interested stakeholders and discussing this matter with both NOAA and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

We also have a pending matter related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Ligado Networks LLC (formerly known as "Lightsquared LLC") has requested that the Commission initiate a proceeding to allocate this spectrum for commercial broadband use in conjunction with its proposed L-Band license modification plan. Accordingly, we are in the process of consulting with NTIA and our other federal partners prior to seeking comment on Ligado Networks LLC's request that a proceeding be initiated. The Commission will engage in a transparent process to collect data and consider Ligado's proposals, any competing proposals, and the needs of the government users prior to making any decisions related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Our analysis will be comprehensive and informed by an objective engineering review of the band, as well as appropriate policy considerations, in keeping with our mandate to act in the public interest. As we move ahead with that process, I will keep you apprised of our work related to this matter.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Commission can perform its mission in ensuring our telecommunications industry has access to essential spectrum resources. Please feel free to call me if you have any other concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

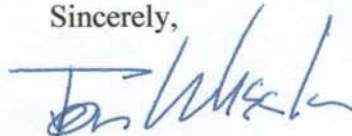
Thank you for your letter encouraging the Commission to expeditiously open a proceeding to reallocate the 1675-1680 MHz band for commercial use.

I am committed to making more spectrum available for new, flexible-use services. And I share your perspective that, through coordination and spectrum sharing, this particular spectrum has the potential to be of significant value for wireless broadband use. At the same time, I am aware of the importance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Meteorological Satellite and radiosonde operations in this band, and the interest in protecting these operations. As you note, however, some studies have indicated that it may be possible to move radiosondes to another band and the 1675-1680 MHz band could be reallocated on a shared basis while protecting NOAA operations. As a result, the Commission is exploring potential scenarios that could benefit interested stakeholders and discussing this matter with both NOAA and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

We also have a pending matter related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Ligado Networks LLC (formerly known as "Lightsquared LLC") has requested that the Commission initiate a proceeding to allocate this spectrum for commercial broadband use in conjunction with its proposed L-Band license modification plan. Accordingly, we are in the process of consulting with NTIA and our other federal partners prior to seeking comment on Ligado Networks LLC's request that a proceeding be initiated. The Commission will engage in a transparent process to collect data and consider Ligado's proposals, any competing proposals, and the needs of the government users prior to making any decisions related to the 1675-1680 MHz band. Our analysis will be comprehensive and informed by an objective engineering review of the band, as well as appropriate policy considerations, in keeping with our mandate to act in the public interest. As we move ahead with that process, I will keep you apprised of our work related to this matter.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Commission can perform its mission in ensuring our telecommunications industry has access to essential spectrum resources. Please feel free to call me if you have any other concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Wheeler